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These and other objects and many of the attendant advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a schematic side elevation view showing an apparatus which is adapted to practice a liquid pressure transfer method according to the present invention;

Fig. 2A is a perspective view showing a steering wheel as an example of a decorated product according to the present invention;

Fig. 2B is a sectional view taken along line 2B-2B of Fig. 2A;

Fig. 3A is a plan view partly in section showing a steering wheel to which printing is applied according to a liquid pressure transfer method of the present invention;

Fig. 3B is an enlarged view of a portion 3B of Fig. 3A;

Fig. 3C is a view along line 3C₁-3C₁, 3C₂-3C₂, 3C₃-3C₃ or 3C₄-3C₄ as viewed in a direction of ^{the} arrow;

Fig. 3D is a fragmentary schematic view partly in section taken along line 3D-3D of Fig. 3A;

Fig. 4 is a schematic view showing liquid pressure transfer printing applied to a steering wheel which is viewed in four directions around a periphery of the steering wheel;

Figs. 5A and 5B each are a schematic plan view showing immersion of a steering wheel in a transfer liquid in a direction perpendicular to a surface of the transfer liquid;

Fig. 6A is a schematic plan view showing immersion of a steering wheel in a transfer liquid in a direction substantially perpendicular to a direction of relative movement between the steering wheel and a transfer film;

Fig. 6B is a side elevation view of the steering wheel as viewed in a direction 6B in Fig. 6A;

Fig. 7A is a schematic plan view showing immersion of a

steering wheel in a transfer liquid in a direction of relative movement between the steering wheel and a transfer film;

Fig. 7B is a front elevation view of the steering wheel as viewed in a direction 7B in Fig. 7A;

5 Fig. 8A is a schematic plan view showing relatively satisfactory transfer of a pattern onto a steering wheel;

Fig. 8B is a side elevation view of the steering wheel as viewed in a direction 8B in Fig. 8A;

10 Fig. 9 is a schematic view showing misregistration of a check pattern occurring on a steering wheel in a peripheral direction thereof during liquid pressure transfer of the check pattern;

Fig. 10 is a perspective view showing ^{the} progress of liquid pressure transfer on a workpiece from an upstream side thereof to a downstream side thereof ^{over the} ~~with a~~ lapse of time; and

15 Fig. 11 is a schematic plan view showing lapping of a transfer film divided into two parts by a workpiece on both inner and outer lateral sides of the workpiece.

20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Now, the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. First a workpiece to be decorated according to the present invention will be described. Then, a liquid pressure transfer printing apparatus
25 for carrying out liquid pressure transfer printing on such a workpiece will be schematically described. Then, a liquid pressure transfer printing method according to the present invention carried out on a loop-like workpiece will be described together with a manner of operation of the liquid pressure
30 transfer printing apparatus.

A workpiece designated by reference character W in the drawings is formed to have a loop-like configuration as a whole or as a part thereof. Thus, the workpieces W may include a variety of members including, for example, a steering wheel